

Attorney Docket No. 08888.0557
Application No. 10/018,729

REMARKS

By this Preliminary Amendment, the claims are amended solely to eliminate improper multiple dependencies, to more clearly recite the subject matter Applicants currently wish to claim in this application, and to eliminate claims directed to non-elected inventions. Support for all of the amendments to the claims comes from the claims and specification as originally filed. Accordingly, no new matter is added.

On September 26, 2003, Applicants filed a Response to Restriction Requirement. The amendments to the claims made in this Preliminary Amendment do not change the groupings of the claims set forth in the Restriction Requirement, or the election or comments made in the Response filed September 26, 2003.

Applicants await a first Office Action on the merits. If the Examiner believes anything further is desirable to place the claims in better condition for examination and allowance, Applicants request that their undersigned representative be contacted at the telephone number or e-mail address listed below. Please grant any petition that is required for entry of this Preliminary Amendment, and charge any required fee that is not submitted with this Preliminary Amendment to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

OCT 15 2003

By: 

Matthew T. Latimer
Reg. No. 44,204
571-203-2714
matthew.latimer@finnegan.com

OFFICIAL

Date: October 15, 2003

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP
1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax: 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com